

Sandhills Elementary Students Present “Westward, Whoa!”

Story & Photos By
Linda Teahon

The Sandhills fifth through eighth grade students presented a most delightful evening of entertainment Friday, April 21 in the Dunning High School Auditorium.

The 25-member cast and crew presented the musical “Westward, Whoa!”

Nine scenes took the audience of family, friends, classmates and general public on a journey to the

town of Vinegar Bottle, along the Santa Fe Trail.

The musical opened and closed with the song “Wagon Wheels West.” Six other songs were performed and included “Does that Sound Like Anyone I Know?” “Ballad of the Hanging Tree” and the toe tapping “El Fandango”.

A soup supper was offered ahead of the program.

Directors were Kris Gannon and Jack Moody.



The cast and crew of “Westward Whoa!” pose for photos following the performance. Those pictured include, back row l-r: Shylee Gonzales, Mattee Zutavern, Tyla Held, Colton Leach, Shaylee Milleson, Josie Morrow, Sophia Glidden, Holt Jensen, Livia Held, Tessa Glidden and Tristen Swisher. Front row l-r: Ella Stithem, Paizley Zutavern, Thatcher Teahon, Aaron Hall, Kallan Cox, Ella Held, Cora Martindale, Heath Larsen, Cesar Chavez, Hunter Bray, Harper Zutavern, Mason Sutton and Dustie Harris.



Sue Flay, Kallen Cox, left, visits with “Smiling Slade Claggett, Cora Martindale.



Lead actor, Heath Larsen, aka, Chuck Wagon.



Towns people on the Main Street of Vinegar Bottle, l-r: Tessa Glidden, Livia Held, Cora Martindale, Harper Zutavern, Sophia Glidden, Holt Jensen, Heath Larsen and Josie Morrow.

Nebraska Press celebrates 150 years

Nebraska Press Association, one of Nebraska’s oldest trade organizations, celebrated its 150th anniversary year with three days of events including a legislative breakfast with state senators, a gala banquet with Governor Jim Pillen, meetings and professional sessions, and the annual Better Newspaper Contest awards program.

The vital role newspapers play in local communities was showcased at the convention held at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel from April 13 through 15.

Governor Jim Pillen issued a proclamation designating June 26-30 as an official week to salute community newspapers throughout Nebraska and spoke Friday evening.

NPA executive director Dennis DeRossett said the special week will highlight and promote newspapers who are working to benefit the communities they serve. He expressed appreciation to those who have come before and looked forward to the next milestone, the 175th convention in 25 years.

It was announced the 2024 National Newspaper Association convention will be held in Omaha in 2024.

Over 2,544 separate entries were entered in Nebraska’s Best Published in 2022 contest judged by the West Virginia Press Association.

The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News and Thomas County Herald received six awards.

The Thomas County Herald received second place in Division A for the agricultural advertisement “A & B Hay Company Makes



Sandhills newspaper publishers were among those celebrating NPA’s 150th anniversary, l-r: Gerri Peterson, Hooker County Tribune, Mullen; Marcia Hora, The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News, Thomas County Herald; and Amy Johnson, Springview Herald.

Cows Happy,” by Marcia Hora and Kendra Cutler.

The Enterprise received first place and second place in Division B in the agricultural advertisement category.

Odds & Ends by Marcia Hora received first place personal column in Division B with “Drives Me Crazy,” a column on what happened after cable was replaced with GPC iTV in Stapleton.

The Enterprise also received second place in Division B in community promotion advertisement with “There’s No Place Like Local,” and third place in Division B with their single retail advertising idea (black & white) with Herbie’s Speakeasy Spooktacular Tasting.

NPAS/One Press president, Vickie Hrabanek of the Norfolk Daily News transferred the gavel to Marcia Hora of The Stapleton Enterprise during the

Saturday evening banquet. Dee Klein of the North Platte Telegraph will move up to vice president. Kevin Peterson of the Wayne Herald will remain NPA president for six months due to the resignation of Willis Mahannah.

Founded in 1873, the mission of the NPA is to protect freedom of the press and to promote the overall business interests and professional development of its members.

Save The Date!

Saturday, June 17
Thedford Alumni
4:00 p.m.
Registration &
Social Hour

Watch For More Info
In Upcoming Issues

Communications & music front and center stage



COURTESY PHOTO

Thomas County 4-H Youth competed in the Communications and Music contest. Pictured above are the participants, back row, l-r: Chandler Pettit, Haxton Hoffman, Bronc Reiser, Emerson Pettit, Cinch Reiser, Kennedy Hoffman and Paisley Ray. Front row, l-r: Myra Schaeffer, Claire Thomas, Piper Hanson, Beckett Thomas, Ariata Scott, Rydell Scott and William Blackford.

Complete results for the competitions may be found on page 6.

Kemp fills NPPD Board Seat

MARCIA HORA

Governor Jim Pillen has announced Rusty Kemp of Tryon will complete the term of resigned Nebraska Public Power District board member Charlie Kennedy.

Kemp will represent NPPD’s Subdistrict 5 which covers 21 western Nebraska counties including Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Dawes, Box Butte, Morrill, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Garden, Deuel, Cherry, Brown, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, McPherson, Logan, Keith, Perkins, Chase, Dundy and Hitchcock.

Kennedy of Scottsbluff, had won the seat by defeating incumbent Thomas Hoff in the 2018 election. His resignation was accepted March 9.

Kemp, a 1989 graduate of McPherson County High School, graduated from UN-K with an ag business degree. He said he was asked to apply for the position.

“I appreciate Governor Pillen’s confidence in me to appoint me to the position,” Kemp said. “My number one priority is ag and keeping electricity reliable and affordable for the industry and others. That means keeping the Gerald Gentleman plant viable.”

Kemp and his wife Rachael, moved back to the ranch northwest of Tryon in McPherson County in 2001, where they have a cow-calf and yearling operation. They



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See Kemp
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